

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 NRC-05 ACDE-00

/166 W

-----120750 201733Z /43

P 201711Z JUL 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2349

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 11202

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, CCD, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP OF FIFTH ROUND; FIRST MEETING, JULY 19, 1978

REF: STATE 178179

RW MESSAGE NO. 2

1. THE FIRST MEETING OF ROUND FIVE OF THE US-USSR WORKING GROUP ON RADIOLOGICAL AND NEW WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (RW/MDW) WAS HELD WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 19 AT THE SOVIET MISSION.

2. AMBASSADOR LIKHACHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) OPENED ROUND FIVE WITH A STATEMENT FOCUSSED ENTIRELY ON THE SUBJECT OF NEW TYPES AND SYSTEMS OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (MDW), IN CONFORMITY WITH SOVDEL'S PATTERN OF PREVIOUS ROUNDS. THE STATEMENT REITERATED STANDARD SOVIET POSITION ON NEW MDW AND STRESSED THE NEED TO
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ESTABLISH AN AD HOC GROUP OF SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS TO STUDY POSSIBLE AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT OF NEW MDW (GENEVA 7896). LIKHACHEV MAINTAINED THE AD HOC GROUP PROPOSAL MET THE U.S. VIEW THAT THE PROBLEM OF NEW MDW SHOULD BE KEPT UNDER CONTINUING REVIEW AND THAT AN APPROPRIATE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE NEGOTIATED AFTER THE DANGER OF SUCH WEAPONS APPEARING HAD BEEN IDENTIFIED.

3. AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF USDEL) RESPONDED BRIEFLY STATING THAT THE U.S. POSITION ON MDW AND THE SOVIET PROPOSED AD HOC GROUP WAS WELL KNOWN. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD EXPECTED TO HEAR SOVIET REACTIONS TO THE REVISED KEY ELEMENTS ON RW INTRODUCED BY THE U.S. ON MAY 4 AND THAT HE HOPED FURTHER MEETINGS OF THE GROUP WOULD BE DEVOTED TO THAT SUBJECT AND THUS BE MORE PRODUCTIVE.

4. IN LENGTHY EXTEMPORANEOUS REMARKS, LIKHACHEV REITERATED THE GREAT IMPORTANCE THE SOVIETS ATTACH TO A COMPREHENSIVE MDW AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO STATED THAT SOVDEL WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE UP RW IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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